

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B32B 27/08, C08J 7/04, C08G 59/50, C07C 217/34, C08G 59/62	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/17470 (43) International Publication Date: 30 April 1998 (30.04.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/17234 (22) International Filing Date: 25 September 1997 (25.09.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/735,284 22 October 1996 (22.10.96) US (71) Applicant: THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY [US/US]; 2030 Dow Center, Midland, MI 48674 (US). (72) Inventors: BRENNAN, David, J.; 1304 Airfield Lane, Midland, MI 48642 (US). WHITE, Jerry, E.; 418 Huckleberry Drive, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 (US). BARGER, Mark, A.; 129 Helen Street, Midland, MI 48640 (US). SILVIS, H., Craig; 1908 Candlestick Lane, Midland, MI 48642 (US). (74) Agent: DAMOCLES, Nemia, C.; Patent Dept., P.O. Box 1967, Midland, MI 48641-1967 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, JP, KR, RU, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: COEXTRUDED LAMINATES COMPRISING LAYERS OF HYDROXY-PHENOXYETHER AND POLYESTER (57) Abstract A laminate structure comprises one or more layers of a polyester and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer. The laminate structure can be prepared by coextruding one or more layers of a polyester and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer. The laminate structure can be fabricated into articles using conventional fabrication techniques such as compression molding, injection molding, blow molding, extrusion, solvent casting, calendering and thermoforming.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece		Republic of Macedonia	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon		Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

COEXTRUDED LAMINATES COMPRISING LAYERS OF HYDROXY-PHENOXYETHER AND POLYESTER

This invention relates to a multilayer structure, and more particularly to a multilayer thermoformable packaging material including a barrier layer.

Crystalline polyesters such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) are used commercially in the packaging of various materials, such as seasonings, carbonated beverages, detergents, and cosmetics. See "Thermoplastic Polyester Resins for Containers" D. P. Callander, *Polym. Sci.*, 25(8), 453-457 (1985). While PET exhibits adequate gas barrier properties for containing and storing some materials, it is inadequate for containing and storing materials such as beer, wine and low acid foods such as meats or vegetables.

In view of the limited barrier properties of crystalline polyesters, it would be highly desirable to provide a structure which has adequate barrier properties for the intended application and good thermal processability.

An attractive approach to such a structure involves utilizing a laminate of PET with another thermoplastic that has substantially better barrier properties than does PET. As described in U.S. Patent 5,472,753, hydroxy phenoxyether polymers, which are often referred to as phenoxy-type thermoplastics, are known to provide improved barrier properties in PET laminates, but these structures require the use of an amorphous polyester as adhesive layer between PET and the hydroxy phenoxyether polymer or in a blend with the hydroxy phenoxyether polymer in order to retain good physical properties. Clearly, it would be an advantage to manufacture physically robust laminates of hydroxy phenoxyether polymers and PET without the need for and the additional cost of an amorphous polyester to promote adhesion between polymer layers in the laminate structure.

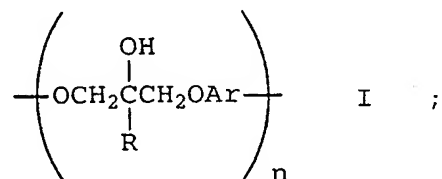
In a first aspect, the present invention is a laminate structure comprising one or more layers of a crystalline polyester or a polyamide and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer.

In a second aspect, the present invention is a packaging material comprising a laminate structure having one or more layers of a crystalline polyester or a polyamide and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer.

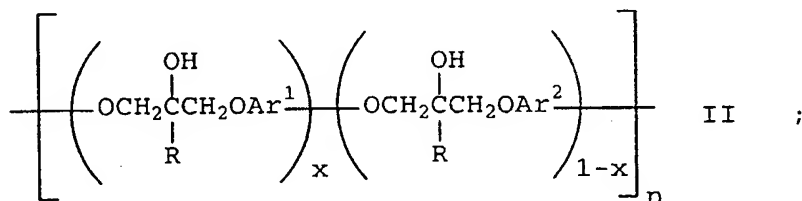
In a third aspect, the present invention is a process for preparing a laminate which comprises coextruding one or more layers of a polyester or a polyamide and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer.

Preferably, the hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers employed in the practice of the present invention are:

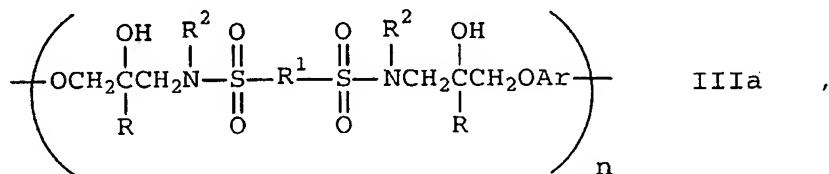
(1) hydroxy-functional polyethers having repeating units represented by the Formula:



5 (2) amide- and hydroxymethyl-functionalized polyethers having repeating units represented by the formula:

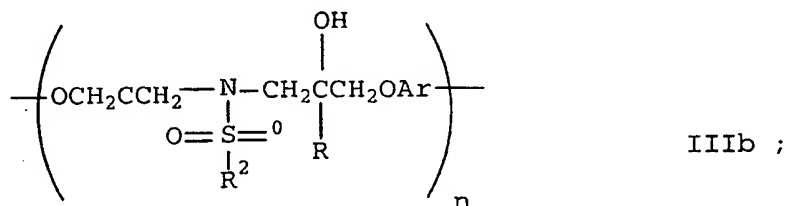


(3) hydroxy-functional poly(ether sulfonamides) having repeating units represented by the formula:

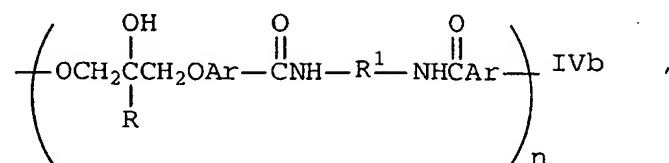
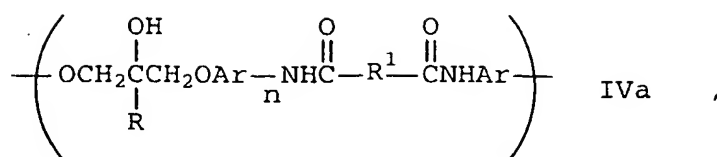


10

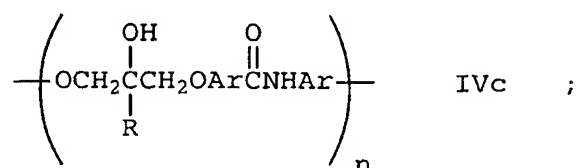
or



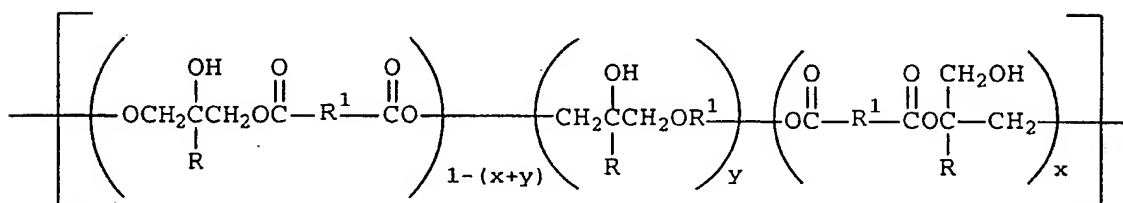
(4) poly(hydroxy amide ethers) having repeating units represented independently by any one of the formulas:



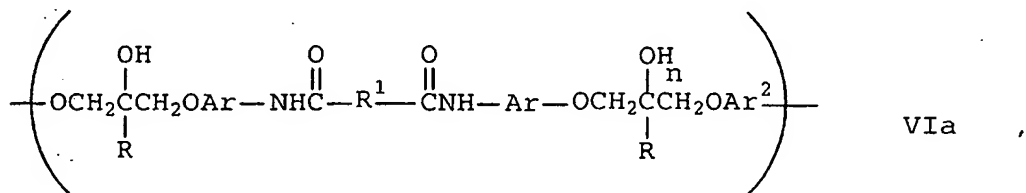
or



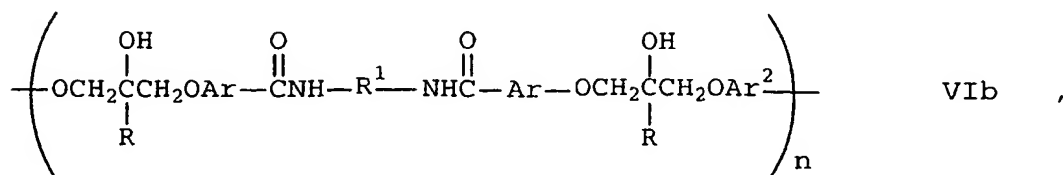
5 (5) poly(hydroxy ester ethers) having repeating units represented by the formula:



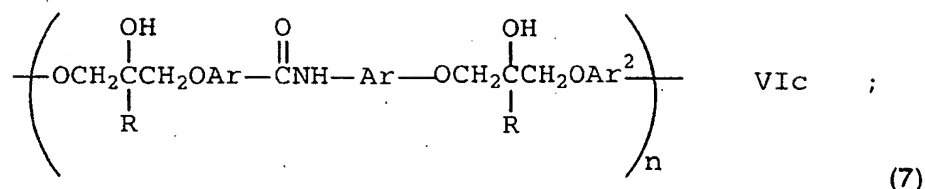
(6) poly(hydroxy amide ethers) having repeating units represented by any one of the formulas:



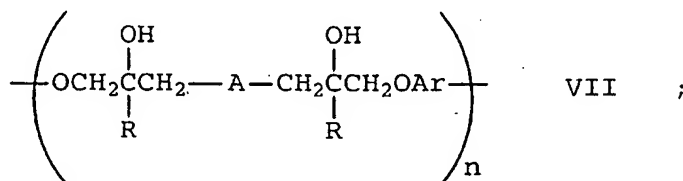
10



or

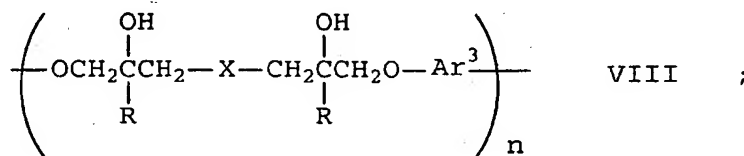


poly(hydroxyamino ethers) having repeating units represented by the formula:

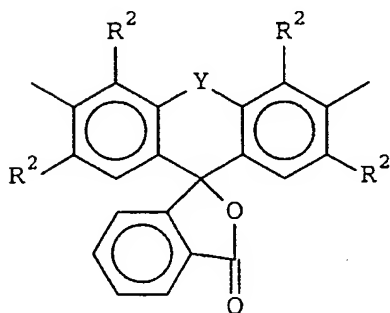
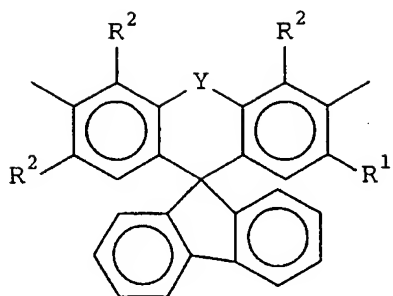


5 and

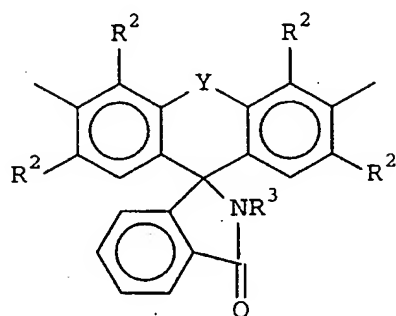
(8) hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers having repeating units represented by the formula:



wherein each Ar individually represents a divalent aromatic moiety, substituted divalent aromatic moiety or heteroaromatic moiety, or a combination of different divalent aromatic moieties, substituted aromatic moieties or heteroaromatic moieties; R is individually hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbyl moiety; each Ar¹ is a divalent aromatic moiety or combination of divalent aromatic moieties bearing amide or hydroxymethyl groups; each Ar² is the same or different than Ar and is individually a divalent aromatic moiety, substituted aromatic moiety or heteroaromatic moiety or a combination of different divalent aromatic moieties, substituted aromatic moieties or heteroaromatic moieties; R¹ is individually a predominantly hydrocarbylene moiety, such as a divalent aromatic moiety, substituted divalent aromatic moiety, divalent heteroaromatic moiety, divalent alkylene moiety, divalent substituted alkylene moiety or divalent heteroalkylene moiety or a combination of such moieties; R² is individually a monovalent hydrocarbyl moiety; A is an amine moiety or a combination of different amine moieties; X is an amine, an arylenedioxy, an arylenedisulfonamido or an arylenedicarboxy moiety or combination of such moieties; and Ar³ is a "cardo" moiety represented by any one of the formulas:



or



wherein Y is nil, a covalent bond, or a linking group, wherein suitable linking groups include,
 5 for example, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a carbonyl atom, a sulfonyl group, or a
 methylene group or similar linkage; n is an integer from 10 to 1000; x is 0.01 to 1.0; and y is 0
 to 0.5.

The term "predominantly hydrocarbylene" means a divalent radical that is
 predominantly hydrocarbon, but which optionally contains a minor amount of heteroatomic
 10 moiety such as oxygen, sulfur, imino, sulfonyl, or sulfoxyl,.

The hydroxy-functional polyethers represented by Formula I can be prepared,
 for example, by allowing a diglycidyl ether or combination of diglycidyl ethers to react with a
 dihydric phenol or a combination of dihydric phenols using the process described in
 U.S. Patent 5,164,472. Alternatively, the hydroxy-functional polyethers are obtained by

allowing a dihydric phenol or combination of dihydric phenols to react with an epihalohydrin by the process described by Reinking, Barnabeo and Hale in the Journal of Applied Polymer Science, Volume 7, page 2135 (1963).

The amide- and hydroxymethyl-functionalized polyethers represented by
5 Formula II can be prepared, for example, by reacting the diglycidyl ethers, such as the diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A, with a dihydric phenol having pendant amido, N-substituted amido or a combination thereof hydroxyalkyl moieties, such as 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide and 3,5-dihydroxybenzamide. These polyethers and their preparation are described in U.S. Patents 5,115,075 and 5,218,075.

10 The hydroxy-functional poly(ether sulfonamides) represented by Formula III are prepared, for example, by polymerizing an N,N'-dialkyl or N,N'-diaryldisulfonamide with a diglycidyl ether as described in U.S. Patent 5,149,768.

The poly(hydroxy amide ethers) represented by Formula IV are prepared by contacting a bis(hydroxyphenylamido)alkane or arene, or a combination of 2 or more of these
15 compounds, such as N,N'-bis(3-hydroxyphenyl) adipamide or N,N'-bis(3-hydroxyphenyl)glutaramide, with an epihalohydrin as described in U.S. Patent 5,134,218.

The poly(hydroxy ester ethers) represented by Formula V are prepared by reacting diglycidyl ethers of aliphatic or aromatic diacids, such as diglycidyl terephthalate, or diglycidyl ethers of dihydric phenols with, aliphatic or aromatic diacids such as adipic acid or
20 isophthalic acid. These polyesters are described in U.S. Patent 5,171,820.

The poly(hydroxy amide ethers) represented by Formula VI are preferably prepared by contacting an N,N'-bis(hydroxyphenylamido)alkane or arene with a diglycidyl ether as described in U.S. Patents 5,089,588 and 5,143,998.

The polyetheramines represented by Formula VII are prepared by contacting
25 one or more of the diglycidyl ethers of a dihydric phenol with an amine having two amine hydrogens under conditions sufficient to cause the amine moieties to react with epoxy moieties to form a polymer backbone having amine linkages, ether linkages and pendant hydroxyl moieties. These polyetheramines are described in U.S. 5,275,853. The hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers represented by Formula VIII are prepared, for example, by contacting
30 at least one dinucleophilic monomer with at least one diglycidyl ether of a cardo bisphenol, such as 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene, phenolphthalein, or phenolphthalimidine or a substituted cardo bisphenol, such as a substituted bis(hydroxyphenyl)fluorene, a substituted

phenolphthalein or a substituted phenolphthalimidine under conditions sufficient to cause the nucleophilic moieties of the dinucleophilic monomer to react with epoxy moieties to form a polymer backbone containing pendant hydroxy moieties and ether, imino, amino, sulfonamido or ester linkages. These hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers are described in U.S. application
5 Serial No. 131,110, filed October 1, 1993.

The hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers commercially available from Phenoxy Associates, Inc. are suitable for use in the present invention. These hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers are the condensation reaction products of a dihydric polynuclear phenol, such as bisphenol A, and an epihalohydrin and have the repeating units represented by Formula I
10 wherein Ar is an isopropylidene diphenylene moiety.

The hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers available from Phenoxy Associates, Inc. and the process for preparing them are described in U.S. Patent 3,305,528.

Most preferably, the hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers employed in the practice of the present invention are the polyetheramines represented by Formula VII.

15 The invention is described especially in relation to polyethylene terephthalate (PET) but is, in principle, applicable to many other thermoplastics of the polyester or polyamide type.

Examples of such other materials include polyhexamethylene adipamide, polycaprolactone, polyhexamethylene sebacamide, polyethylene 2,6- and 1,5-naphthalate
20 (PEN), polytetramethylene 1,2-dioxybenzoate and copolymers of ethylene terephthalate and ethylene isophthalate.

Polyesters and methods for their preparation (including the specific monomers employed in their formation, their proportions, polymerization temperatures, catalysts and other conditions) are well-known in the art and reference is made thereto for the purposes of
25 this invention. For purposes of illustration and not limitation, reference is particularly made to pages 1-62 of Volume 12 of the Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering, 1988 revision, John Wiley & Sons.

Typically, polyesters are derived from the reaction of a di- or polycarboxylic acid with a di- or polyhydric alcohol. Suitable di- or polycarboxylic acids include
30 polycarboxylic acids and the esters and anhydrides of such acids, and mixture thereof. Representative carboxylic acids include phthalic, isophthalic, adipic azelaic, terephthalic,

oxalic, malonic, succinic, glutaric, and sebacic,. Dicarboxylic components are preferred. Terephthalic acid is most commonly employed and preferred in the preparation of polyester films. α,β -unsaturated di- and polycarboxylic acids (including esters or anhydrides of such acids and mixtures thereof) can be used as partial replacement for the saturated carboxylic components. Representative α,β -unsaturated di- and polycarboxylic acids include maleic, fumaric, aconitic, itaconic, mesaconic, citraconic, and monochloromaleic.

Typical di- and polyhydric alcohols used to prepare the polyester are those alcohols having at least two hydroxy groups, although minor amounts of alcohol having more or less hydroxy groups may be used. Dihydroxy alcohols are preferred. Dihydroxy alcohols conventionally employed in the preparation of polyesters include diethylene glycol; dipropylene glycol; ethylene glycol; 1,2-propylene glycol; 1,4-butanediol; 1,4-pentanediol; 1,5-hexanediol, and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol with 1,2-propylene glycol being preferred. Mixtures of the alcohols can also be employed. The di- or polyhydric alcohol component of the polyester is usually stoichiometric or in slight excess with respect to the acid. The excess of the di- or polyhydric alcohol will seldom exceed 20 to 25 mole percent and usually is between 2 and 10 mole percent.

The polyester is generally prepared by heating a mixture of the di- or polyhydric alcohol and the di- or polycarboxylic component in their proper molar ratios at elevated temperatures, usually between 100°C and 250°C for extended periods of time, generally ranging from 5 to 15 hours. Polymerization inhibitors such as t-butylcatechol may advantageously be used.

Polyamides which can be employed in the practice of the present invention include the various grades of nylon such as nylon-6, nylon-6,6 and nylon-12. Nylon is the general name given to a group of polymeric amides. The thickness of each layer in the laminate structure is dependent on a number of factors including the intended use, materials stored in the container, the length of storage prior to use, and the specific composition employed in each layer of the laminate.

In general, the laminate structure will have a total thickness of from 0.5 to 500 mils, preferably from 1.0 to 250 mils; with the thickness of the hydroxy-phenoxyether layer(s) being from 0.05 to 100 mils, preferably from 0.1 to 50 mils; and the thickness of the polyester layer being from 0.45 to 400 mils, preferably from 0.9 to 200 mils.

The laminate structure of the present invention can be produced using conventional extrusion techniques such as feedblock coextrusion, multimanifold die coextrusion, or combinations of the two, or may be produced by a laminating procedure whereby self-sustaining lamina are bonded together by applications of heat and pressure and reference is made thereto for the purposes of this invention. The volume (thickness) of each individual layer may be controlled as it is extruded. Thus, the overall thickness of the multilayer structure may be controlled to produce a film or sheet of desired thickness. The laminate structure may also be formed by solvent spraying or solution casting (1) a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer onto a polyester or polyamide film or sheet or (2) a polyester or polyamide onto a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer film or sheet. Solvent casting is a well known process and is described, for example, in the Plastics Engineering Handbook of the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc., 4th Edition, page 448.

The laminate structure of the present invention can be fabricated into articles using conventional thermoforming or other fabrication techniques. A typical thermoforming process comprises heating a thermoplastic sheet to its softening point and then shaping the sheet at a forming station utilizing various molds or vacuum, or a combination thereof or air pressure assists. Other thermoforming techniques include solid phase pressure forming (SPPF) and the so-called scrapless forming process (SFP). For purposes of this disclosure, references to thermoforming techniques or thermoformable structures will include SPPF and SFP. During fabrication, the molecules of the polymer can be oriented by methods well known in the art. One such method is described in U.S. Patent 5,382,693. Orientation is also described in *Plastics Engineering Handbook* of the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc., 4th Ed., p. 113-115, 182 and 183. Articles formed therefrom include containers and molded parts, blown and cast multilayer films, foam sheets, tubes, pipes, and fibers. Examples of such articles include flexible and rigid containers used for the preservation of food, drink, medicine and other perishables.

The following examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of this invention.

Example 1

Poly(ethylene terephthalate) (Formula I or PET; Cleartuf™ 8006) and poly(hydroxy amino ether) (Formula II; melt index = 3.0) were dried in a dehumidifying oven for a minimum of twelve hours at 176°C and 65°C, respectively prior to processing. The two materials then were coextruded using an inset feedblock configured to produce a three-layer

laminate with exterior layers of PET and an interior layer (15 percent by volume) of poly(hydroxy amino ether). The PET and poly(hydroxy amino ether) components were extruded using a 2 inch single screw extruder operating at 280°C and a 1 inch single screw extruder operating at 200°C respectively. The materials were then passed through a feedblock (maintained at 220°C) and a 4 inch wide variable thickness manifold die (maintained at 260°C) to produce 3.75 inch wide laminates of varying thickness (0.025 to 0.095 inch thick). The extrudates were then quenched on cold rolls to avoid crystallization of the PET component. Overall extrusion rates varied from 25 to 117 pounds per hour.

Impact resistance was measured at 22.8°C for the laminates according to ASTM method D 3763-93 using a Dynatup model 8000 drop tower. Specimen size was 1.8 inches, and specimens, clamped with an unsupported area of 1.25 inches by 1.25 inches, were impacted with a tup of 0.625 inches diameter. The tup was attached to a cross-head weighing 138.5 pounds and dropped from a height of twelve inches, resulting in a test speed of eight feet/second. All samples exhibited ductile failure and showed little or no delamination after impact; Table I summarizes impact properties of laminates prepared at the extrusion rates and with the thicknesses shown.

Table I

<u>Extrusion Rate, pounds/hour</u>	<u>Thickness, mil</u>	<u>Maximum Load, pounds</u>	<u>Total Energy, foot-pounds</u>
25	50	266	10.2
25	26	220	8.8
41	78	229	10.1
58	78	680	32.5
77	78	756	29.4
99	78	713	16.8
117	78	828	39.7

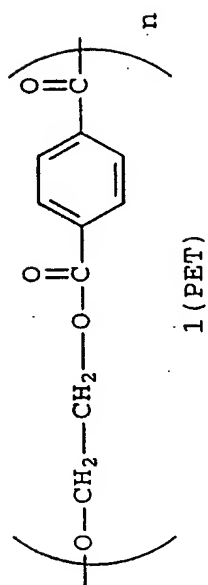
Example 2

The experiment of Example 1 was repeated except that the extrusion temperature of the poly(hydroxy amino ether) was 240°C. Impact result for laminates

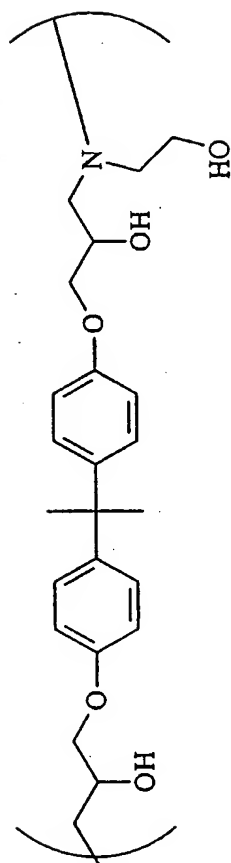
produced in this example, all of which exhibited ductile failure with little or no delamination, are summarized in Table II

Table II

Extrusion Rate, pounds/hour	Thickness, mil	Maximum Load, pounds	Total Energy, foot-pounds
20	78	382	13.2
30	78	453	16.3
40	78	594	26.5



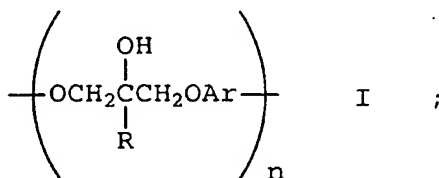
1 (PET)



2 (PHAE)

CLAIMS:

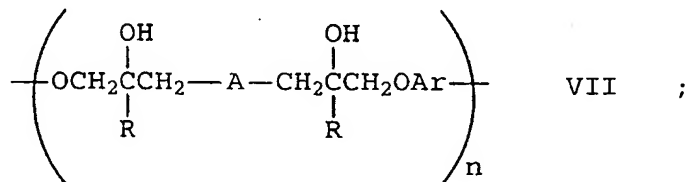
1. A laminate structure comprising one or more layers of a crystalline polyester or a polyamide and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer.
2. The laminate structure of Claim 1 comprising outer layers of a crystalline polyester or a polyamide and a core layer of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer.
3. The laminate structure of Claim 1 comprising outer layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer and a core layer of a crystalline polyester or a polyamide.
4. The laminate structure of Claim 1 wherein the hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer is a poly(hydroxyamino ether) having repeating units represented by the formula:



wherein each Ar individually represents a divalent aromatic moiety, substituted divalent aromatic moiety or heteroaromatic moiety, or a combination of different divalent aromatic moieties, substituted aromatic moieties or heteroaromatic moieties; R is individually hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbyl moiety; A is an amine moiety or a combination of different amine moieties; and n is an integer from 10 to 1,000.

5. The laminate structure of Claim 1 wherein the crystalline polyester is polyethyleneterephthalate.
6. The laminate structure of Claim 1 wherein N-polyamide is nylon-6, nylon-6,6 or nylon-12.
7. A packaging material comprising the laminate structure of Claim 2.
8. A packaging material comprising the laminate structure of Claim 3.
9. A process for preparing a laminate which comprises coextruding one or more layers of a crystalline polyester or polyamide and one or more layers of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer.

10. The process of Claim 9 wherein the hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer is a poly(hydroxyamino ether) having repeating units represented by the formula:



wherein each Ar individually represents a divalent aromatic moiety, substituted divalent aromatic moiety or heteroaromatic moiety, or a combination of different divalent aromatic moieties, substituted aromatic moieties or heteroaromatic moieties; R is individually hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbyl moiety; A is a divalent amine moiety or a combination of different divalent amine moieties; and n is an integer from 10 to 1,000.

11. The process of Claim 9 wherein the crystalline polyester is polyethyleneterephthalate.

12. The process of Claim 9 wherein the polyamide is nylon-6, nylon6,6 or nylon-12.

13. A process for preparing a laminate which comprises solution-casting a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer onto a crystalline polyester or a polyamide film or sheet.

14. A process for preparing a laminate which comprises applying an aqueous dispersion of a hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer onto a crystalline polyester or polyamide film or sheet.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 97/17234

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 B32B27/08 C08J7/04 C08G59/50 C07C217/34 C08G59/62

According to International Patent Classification(IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B32B C08J C08G C07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 689 933 A (PEPSICO INC) 3 January 1996 see page 3, line 13-15 - page 7, line 55-58; claims 1-5,9-11,27-30; figure 1 see page 8, line 29-55 - page 9, line 31-44 ---	1,4,5,9, 11
E	EP 0 802 046 A (GRACE W R & CO) 22 October 1997 see page 4, line 2-25 - page 7, line 39-47; claims 9,11; figure 5 see page 9, line 47-53 - page 10, line 1-20-25 see page 11, line 17-18; example 7 --- -/--	1,6,9, 12,13

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 January 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/01/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Derz, T

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 97/17234

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 97 36799 A (GRACE W R & CO ;MIRLE SRINIVAS K (US)) 9 October 1997 see page 9, line 13-18; claims 9,11,13 see page 17, line 26 - page 18, line 1-7 see page 18, line 22-29 - page 20, line 6-11 ----	1,2,6,7, 9,12
Y	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8951 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A18, AN 89-373373 XP002051770 & JP 01 278 327 A (TEIJIN LTD) , 8 November 1989 see abstract ----	1-5,7-11
Y	US 5 143 998 A (BRENNAN DAVID J ET AL) 1 September 1992 cited in the application see column 1, line 20-52-63 - column 5, line 22-28; claims 1,5-7 -----	1-5,7-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 97/17234

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0689933 A	03-01-96	US 5472753 A	05-12-95
		AU 2331595 A	11-01-96
		JP 8318607 A	03-12-96
EP 0802046 A	22-10-97	CA 2202942 A	19-10-97
WO 9736799 A	09-10-97	WO 9736798 A	09-10-97
US 5143998 A	01-09-92	AU 650621 B	30-06-94
		AU 5563590 A	16-11-90
		CA 2051446 A	28-10-90
		DE 69030084 D	10-04-97
		DE 69030084 T	25-09-97
		EP 0470180 A	12-02-92
		WO 9012828 A	01-11-90
		US 5089588 A	18-02-92

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)